

Perfect tenses

We use the simple past to refer to actions that occurred at a definite past time and that are finished.

We use the past perfect to refer to actions in the past that occurred before other past actions.

We use the present perfect to refer to actions in the past that still affect the present or to actions that began in the past and are not finished.

We use the future perfect to refer to actions that will be completed at a specific time in the future.

Task 1: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parenthesis.

1. I knew all the answers because before the class I _____ (buy) a book on verb tenses.
2. By next year I will have _____ (begin) high school.
3. Our teacher has _____ (teach) us verbs for over a year.
4. By this time next week I will have _____ (win) the spelling bee contest.
5. We _____ (finish) our homework when the lights went out.
6. Jack _____ (lived) across the street for three years.

Task 2: Choose the appropriate options to complete the sentences.

1. In the evenings, I often play chess with my neighbor. I _____ chess with him since I _____ to live here ten years ago.
a. have been playing / came b. had played / have come
2. This bicycle _____ in our family for fourteen years. My father used it for the first five years, my brother rode it for the next five and I _____ it for the last four.
a. will have had / have had b. has been / have had
3. Luisa _____ her driver's test three times because she's so bad at parking. But she _____ parking since last week and I think she has gotten a little better at it.
a. has failed / has been practicing b. have failed / has practiced
4. By the time we _____ home, mom _____ dinner for us.
a. have arrived / has cooked b. arrive / will have prepared
5. I have been waiting for the prices of the real estate to come down before buying a house, but I think I _____ too long and the prices _____ to go up again.
a. have waited / are beginning b. have been waiting / will have begun

